

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2808

UNCLAS PARIS 22783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJ: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. THE FRENCH LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE IMPORTATION AND DISPOSITION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ARE EXTENSIVE DEPENDING UPON THE TYPE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION UNDER CONSIDERATION, THEIR INTENDED USE, AND ULTIMATE DESTINATION. THE LAWS (DECREES) AND REGULATIONS ARE SET FORTH IN THE MANUAL, WAR MATERIEL, ARMS, AND AMMUNITION, EDITION OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1974, 63 PAGES. A COPY OF THE MANUAL IS BEING FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. FIREARMS AND WEAPONS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO 8 CATEGORIES:

1ST CATEGORY - FIREARMS AND THEIR AMMUNITIONS INTENDED FOR LAND, NAVAL OR AERIAL WARFARE.

2ND CATEGORY - MATERIALS INTENDED TO CARRY OR UTILIZE FIREARMS IN COMBAT.

3RD CATEGORY - PROTECTIVE MATERIALS AGAINST WAR GAS.

4TH CATEGORY - FIREARMS AND AMMUNITIONS CONSIDERED TO BE DEFENSIVE.

5TH CATEGORY - ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS FOR HUNTING.

6TH CATEGORY - CUTTING WEAPONS (ARMES BLANCHES).

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7TH CATEGORY - SHOOTING, FAIR, OR DRAWING ROOM

FIREARMS AND THEIR AMMUNITIONS.

8TH CATEGORY - HISTORICAL AND COLLECTOR'S ARMS
AND AMMUNITIONS.

3. THE COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION OF CATEGORIES 1 THROUGH 7 REQUIRES THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (CUSTOMS) AND IN CATEGORIES 1 THROUGH 4 ALSO THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. CONTROLS ARE MAINTAINED OVER THE DISPOSITION, SALE, AND COMMERCIAL EXPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITIONS. THE ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION LISTED IN CATEGORIES 1, 2, 3, AND 4 BY PRIVATE PERSONS IS GENERALLY PROHIBITED. THE ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF CATEGORIES 5, 6, 7, AND 8 IS AUTHORIZED WITHOUT PERMITS. THE PURCHASE OF CATEGORY 5 ARMS REQUIRES EVIDENCE OF A HUNTING PERMIT. THE CARRYING OF THESE ARMS IS PERMITTED EXCEPT FOR CATEGORY 6 WHERE AN AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN TREATED IN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS REQUIRE MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION. RETAIL AND WHOLESALE TRANSACTIONS ARE RECORDED AND REPORTED TO LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NUMEROUS CONDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE REGULATIONS ARE LISTED, AND IT IS RECOMMENDED THE MANUAL BE CONSULTED REGARDING SPECIFIC ISSUES IN QUESTION.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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